## REMARKS

In this paper, claim 13 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-20 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 11-20 if rewritten to be in independent form. Claims 11 and 17 were rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in the previous response. In this paper, claim 13 has been rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 11-20 are allowable.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 filing to comply with the written description requirement. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the office action, the amendment replacing the term "current drawing unit" with "voltage decreasing unit" is considered new matter because the original description did not indicate any similar language, and that the new language is not equivalent to the previous language. However, paragraph [0036] of the original specification states:

> "Control unit 25 functions as a current drawing unit in this situation. Both of these operations cause current to be drawn from battery unit 32, even through current usually does not need not be drawn from these elements when the bicycle is parked. This, in turn, reduces the voltage of battery unit 32 to conserve battery life even when temperatures are elevated."

This passage refers to the sub-steps comprising step S3 labeled "voltage decreasing operation" in Fig. 7, and, more specifically, to steps S11-S13 in Fig. 8 which describe how current is drawn from the power supply in order to accomplish the voltage decreasing operation. The term "voltage decreasing" narrowed claim 1 to distinguish over the previously cited prior art, because current can be drawn from a battery without decreasing its voltage, depending upon the storage capacity of the battery. The original specification expressly states that control unit (25) performs a voltage decreasing operation and therefore properly can be called a voltage decreasing unit.

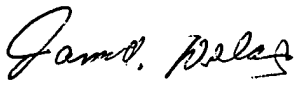
Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shu-Hsien (US 6,152,250). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a bicycle condition detecting unit that detects when a bicycle is in a selected condition that ordinarily does not require drawing current from the battery unit for powering a current drawing element, and a voltage decreasing unit that decreases voltage of the battery unit when the bicycle condition detecting unit detects the selected condition. Shu-Hsien discloses a power driving control system for an electrically-assisted bicycle wherein a battery (BA) is used to power an electric motor (E) that provides an assisting force to rotate the rear wheel (B) of the bicycle. A motor driver (U3) controlled by a microprocessor (U2) switches the power from battery (BA) to motor (E). It is true as stated at column 4, lines 52-57 that, when the bicycle is moving downhill in the extreme case, microprocessor (U2) may stop the power supply to motor (E). The office action then states that, under such conditions, variable resistor (VR) and processor (U2) decrease voltage of the battery. However, Shu-Hsien does not state that the voltage of battery (BA) decreases at that time. Quite to the contrary, when a downhill riding condition is detected and power is cut off to motor (E), voltage is conserved. The statement in the office action that "handgrip comprising the VR is not activated by the rider" actually supports the contention that voltage is conserved during downhill riding, not decreased, because power is not supplied to motor (E) when (VR) is not activated. The Shu-Hsien device operates exactly opposite the claimed device.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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